



BEFORE A STOP, A TRAIN STATION

AVENUE DE LA GARE (VIRECOURT)



On June 24, 1857, the Compagnie de l'Est open a railway line linking Blainville and Epinal. With its goods hall, its unloading dock and its sidings, the Bayon station (ill. circa 1900) attracted new businesses to the area and enabled the economic development of Bayon.



A café (ill. circa 1900) was then set up in the new district. It is a friendly place for residents but also for travellers passing through.

During the First World War, the station was also a transit point for wounded soldiers. In annexed barracks, convalescents or those on leave could enjoy a rest home, a cinema and a theatre...

DID YOU KNOW ?

Now gone, the Bayon station was composed of a main building (the upper floor of which was used as accommodation for the station master) and 2 symmetrical wings; all embellished with large French windows... Don't you think it looks like the Charmes station? No wonder since the buildings were built the same year, when the line arrived !



NEW ROOTS

AVENUE DE LA GARE (VIRECOURT)

In 1882, to flee German Alsace, J-Léon Coumes moved the family chicory processing business to Bayon. He installed his machines in the former Fruhinsholz cooperage, extended the buildings and housed nearly 10 families to create a large workers' city.



His sense of innovation, the quality of his products and the productivity of his factory (more than 1.5 tonnes per year) earned it international fame and prizes at world fairs (cf. ill 20th century).

The DV factory was also ahead of its time in social terms to ensure the well-being (and loyalty) of its employees: accident prevention, pharmacy, ventilated premises, life insurance, pension fund, etc. And even, the construction of a ballroom and cinema, now used as a fire station.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Previously called *La Chicorée*, this area of Bayon became the Alsace-Lorraine district in connection with the history of the Daniel Voelcker-Coumes company, which closed its doors in 1954 and whose advertising slogan had previously been spread on many walls : «Bayon's DV chicory enhances coffee!»



RURAL COOPERATION

SQUARE DES ACADÉMICIENS

At the end of the war, Mr. Remy (salesman), Mr. Colin and Mr. Simon (farmers) planned to develop local and solidarity agriculture.

The Bayon cooperative was thus created on August 3, 1919 with a capital of 105,000 francs divided into 2100 shares, held by the producers and customers in the area.

On October the 1st, the first food store opened on the current Square des Académiciens. The success was immediate.



The company then had to find new buildings. In 1921, a large store, dedicated to the wholesale sale of wine, was built on Avenue de la Gare.



The cooperative continued to expand with the installation of agricultural machinery repair workshops, a branch in Vézelize, a goods depot in Rozelieures, Roville and Nancy, but also with the reopening of the Euron mill and the construction of a wheat warehouse on the Canal de l'Est.

At the same time, to meet the ever-increasing demand, bazaar trucks crisscross the region.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The Bayon cooperative then became the Agricultural Society of Bayon and was then integrated into the Lorraine Agricultural Cooperative. Still active, the CAL is specialised in the production, collection and marketing of cereals but also in the trading of agricultural equipment.



2000 YEARS OF TILES

AVENUE DE VIRECOURT

At the time when Bayon was called Abayum, a small potter was already making tiles in his rudimentary kiln for the Roman villas in the area...

In the Middle Ages, a flat tile factory contributed to the influence of Bayon : the lord of the country sold the production every year at auction...

Centuries later, in 1858, J-Pierre Mongel founded an industrial tile factory on Avenue de Virecourt, opposite the current Rue des Tuileries.



The factory was renowned for the quality of its products (colour, solidity, frost resistance, etc.). The composition of the local clay used and the manufacturing processes allowed Mongel tiles to be guaranteed 75 !

At the beginning of the 20th century, a second, smaller tile factory was set up on the Baccarat road : the Fénel tile factory.



DID YOU KNOW ?

The Bayon tile factories ceased their activity in the 30s following a fire. While digging our land it is not uncommon to come across a tile by whom and when were they produced, it is up to you to investigate. In Bayon, Mr. André Brenon is a great tiles collector. Its archives are precious and will be able to guide you.



ART NOUVEAU VILLAS

AVENUE DE LA GARE

The arrival of the train in the middle of the nineteenth century encouraged the wealthy bourgeois of Bayon and Nancy to build beautiful villas along this artery linking the station to the city center. Since then you can admire the architecture inspired by the «Art Nouveau» spirit. :

- at n° 54, is a house built by Doctor Jacquot.



- at n° 29, the villa *La Sapinière*.



- at n° 18, the *Wisteria* are typical of the Nancy school. Built by two local industrialists, the building became a post office after the 2nd World War and was given an extension to house the postal sorting center and then in 2010 an access ramp.

The municipality acquired it in 2016 to reinstall the town hall while renting to the post office the premises necessary for its maintenance in the town.



DID YOU KNOW ?

At the Larivière house, at the old house of Henri Gaudel... There are many other residences on both sides of the Avenue de la Gare, with architecture more or less marked by the Art Nouveau spirit of the end of the 19th century. Each one has its own style but also its own story!